

APG News

Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

PRSTD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Havre de Grace, Md.
21078
Permit No. 24

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

Vol. 51, No. 5 • February 2, 2006

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Feb. 8, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags, and place them on the curb.

Jazz Combo performs at Perry Point tonight

The 389th Band (AMC's Own) Jazz Combo will perform at Perry Point VA Hospital 12:30 to 2 p.m., Feb. 2.

For more information, contact Sgt. Josephine Diggia, 410-278-8769.

Veterans rally in Annapolis

The Maryland Retired Veterans Task Force and the Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs is hosting a Veterans Rally, 4:30 p.m., Feb. 6 at Lawyer's Mall, located on College Avenue and Rowe Boulevard in Annapolis.

Military retirees representing 27 veterans' service organizations will be on hand to show support for two bills, Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 35 now before the Maryland General Assembly that will remove Maryland state taxes from military retirement pay," according to retired Navy Lt. Ed T. Kreiner, chairman MRVTF and of the Harford Commission.

Speakers will include state legislators and Governor Robert Ehrlich Jr. as well as George Owings III, secretary of Veterans Affairs and James Adkins, deputy secretary.

Free parking and bus transportation is available at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Rowe Boulevard and Taylor Avenue.

For more information, call 410-803-7177.

Applying for HPCMP PET Summer Intern Program 2006

The User Productivity Enhancement and Technology Transfer initiative of the Department of Defense High Performance Computing Modernization Program announces its 2006 Summer Intern Program in High Performance Computing.

The goal of the program is to encourage U.S. college students to consider careers in HPC research within the DoD. Summer intern students will work with a DoD mentor and

See SHORTS, page 4

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2

Local muralist's work unveiled

Page 3

Community Notes

Pages 6-7

APG News reporter visits New Orleans

Page 12

MWR

Page 13

KUSAHC Health Notes

Living in a hurricane's wake



Photo by REBECCA CHISHOLM

The destruction caused by last year's hurricane season is still evident in New Orleans, as well as the rest of the Gulf Coast. See pages 2, 6 and 7 for more stories and commentary on disaster.

Comment cards provide 'voice' for Soldiers



Illustration by JERRY ARNOLD

The first fold of the Soldier comment card

Story by
KIM WILSON
RDECOM

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command developed a program this past fall to let Warfighters know that their opinions count, by distributing 10,000 comment cards overseas to deployed Soldiers as well as Soldiers stateside.

Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy H. Alcivar said that the innovative program launched in November was developed as a team effort within RDECOM to improve communication between

Soldiers in the field and civilian laboratory scientists and engineers who support them. RDECOM has more than 12,000 scientists and engineers working to improve and advance technologies for the Warfighter.

"The comment cards have allowed us to obtain feedback directly from the Soldier, to help scientists and engineers develop and improve current technologies and equipment," Alcivar said.

Sgt. 1st Class Dion Samuel, Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion, agreed that there is a strong need to "close the loop" of communication

between Soldiers, and scientists and engineers.

"The outcome would be positive if Soldiers knew they had the ability to make changes, especially newer Soldiers," Samuel said.

The comment cards target divisions overseas to inquire about specific problems Soldiers may have with equipment, suggestions on methods of improving the equipment and any further suggestions or issues they would like to add.

After the cards are completed by the Soldiers, they are collected and sent to the Mission Support and Communications Division at RDECOM's System of Systems Integration, Fort Belvoir, Va., for review.

"After reviewing the comments, they are distributed appropriately to the various research, RDEC's development and engineering centers," said Jack Byers, chief of Mission Support and Communications, SOSI.

The collected feedback is then placed into a data base so that SOSI can monitor "trends or patterns" that may arise.

Once the comments arrive at the various RDECS, each lab or center will take steps toward developments to satisfy or improve the mobility and survivability of Soldiers, Alcivar said.

"When they [scientists and engineers] get feedback from those who are using the equipment, they are getting

first-hand information," said Staff Sgt. Venus Briggs, Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion. "How else would they [scientists and engineers] know if the equipment is working?"

The concerns Soldiers identified in their feedback covered a wide range, Alcivar said. Soldiers sometimes identify an area that RDECOM does not directly deal with. In those cases SOSI passes the concerns to the correct organization so that all concerns are addressed.

While the comment cards seek to obtain feedback that will help improve Warfighter technologies, Brig. Gen. Mark Brown, deputy commanding general, SOSI, explained that not all collected feedback is criticism.

"Half of the responses received are telling us positive comments, which is good news for us," Brown said. "In fact, 20 percent of feedback is asking for more of what they already have."

While the Soldiers who fill out the comment cards may remain anonymous, they can request a direct response to their remarks by including their personal contact information. Very few participants required a response, Alcivar recalled, but individuals who requested a reply did receive one.

The responses sent to the Soldiers so far have covered which RDEC their comment was sent to and how RDECOM was to assist with their request.

See VOICE, page 8

Laugh 4 Ever comedy show Saturday

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Get ready for an evening of fun as Morale, Welfare and Recreation brings the Laugh 4 Ever Comedy Show to the Post Theater for two shows Feb. 4.

The show features stand up comics Joe Recca, Matt Kazam and Doug Karpf.

The first show at 7 p.m. is for active duty personnel only.

Tickets cost \$10 and doors open at 6 p.m.

The second show for the general public starts at 9 p.m. The show costs \$15 and doors open at 8:30 p.m.

"This show has something for everyone," said Earlene Allen, MWR senior programmer. "These guys have been around a while, on TV, in movies and in comedy clubs, plus Doug Karpf is an up and coming comic and very funny."

Joe Recca
A veteran performer since 1987, Recca came up with the likes of Dave Chappelle.

Dave Chappelle and I would sit in the back of the

club waiting to do our five minutes," Recca said.

His TV credits include BET Coming to the Stage, BET Comic View, HBO Def Comedy Jam, Showtime at the Apollo, Apollo Comedy Hour and Uptown Comedy Club.

In January 2005, Recca was named the next "Super Star Funny" when he won BET's comedy competition "Coming to the Stage."

Matt Kazam

A native New Yorker, Kazam resides in the Washington D.C. area where he is best known for teaching at the Improv Comedy School and giving lectures on public speaking.

As a stand up comic, his TV appearances include FOX's "Big Red Couch," Comedy Central's "Stand-Up, Stand-Up," VH-1's "Fools For Love," TLC's "Two For Love" and The Discovery Channel's "Lux List."

Kazam has opened for such notable comedians as Chris Rock, Pauly Shore, Robin Williams, DL Hughley and Drew Carey.

APG Soldiers win Stars of Tomorrow contest



Sgt. Tara Goodman, a Soldier stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, wins best-of-show honors in the Army's 2006 Margaret Skippy Lynn Stars of Tomorrow Talent Contest Jan. 21 at Fort Belvoir, Va. Goodman wowed the crowd with three original poems about finding love, losing love and hoping to regain love.

Story by
REBECCA CHISHOLM
APG News

Three performing Soldiers from Aberdeen Proving Ground competed in the Army's 2006 Margaret

"Skippy" Lynn Stars of Tomorrow Talent Contest Jan. 21 at Fort Belvoir, Va., which culminated with both a category and "Best in Show" overall win by Sgt. Tara

Goodman, U.S. Army Ordinance Center and Schools. Goodman, a performing poet, presented "My Trilogy of Love."

"The crowd participation was wonderful," Goodman said.

See PERFORMERS, page 8